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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Thirty-sixth session
Second part
Geneva, 12 March 1990
Agenda item 11

DRAFT REPORT OF THE TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD ON THE SECOND PART OF ITS THIRTY-SIXTH SESSION

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
from 12 to .. March 1990

Rapporteur: Mr. A. AZAIEZ (Tunisia)

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INTRODUCTION

1. The second part of the thirty-sixth regular session of the Trade and Development Board, held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, from 12 to .. March 1990, was opened by Mr. Oscar de Rojas (Venezuela), President of the Board at its thirty-sixth session.

Introductory statement by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD

2. The Secretary-General of UNCTAD, referring to the ongoing intergovernmental processes under way in Geneva and New York, said that contributions to the preparations for the Second Conference on the Least Developed Countries from the least developed countries and their main development partners had been distilled by the secretariat into elements for a programme of action for the 1990s, which was a useful input to further intergovernmental deliberation. The issues with which the Conference would deal had important implications for development co-operation as a whole. The Preparatory Committee of the Conference to meet shortly provided a universal forum in which all member States could bring their views to bear.

3. UNCTAD VIII would be an occasion to carry forward the momentum imparted by the Paris Conference and the Uruguay Round, and the launching of the International Development Strategy. His consultations on the agenda had indicated a high degree of convergence on its nature. It was likely to focus on a few major policy issues within UNCTAD's mandate, in the context of a number of newly emerging concerns. These, although not equally shared by all countries, included: emphasis on the need for sound macro-economic policies and the pursuit of economic efficiency through the use, as appropriate, of market signals and competitiveness in promoting entrepreneural initiative and in optimizing the contributions of the public and private sectors; the national and global impacts of economic policy reforms in different countries, developing and developed; the effect upon North-South trade and development co-operation of trends towards economic integration among developed countries and of new initiatives in East-West relations; and the need for ecologically-responsible behaviour by economic agents. More specifically, UNCTAD VIII would take account of long-term structural changes and challenges and opportunities it presented in the context of interdependence of economies and policy areas as well as the need for a more supportive and predictable environment. The expansion and diversification of the productive base and

expanding trade and technological capacities in goods and services of developing countries, reduction of commodity dependence, and reversing trends in resource flows were stressed.

4. The expansion of world output and trade had been relatively strong overall, but uneven in distribution. However, most developing countries had not yet participated in the expansion and unless current problems were resolutely tackled, most could continue to suffer from economic stagnation or even retrogression. In most developing countries output had declined, and in many macro-economic disorder had become entrenched. Deteriorating terms of trade for commodity producers and heavy debt burdens had been important causes of this poor performance. The international strategy to deal with debt remained inadequate. Moreover, the scarcity of investment resources had often frustrated the efforts of indebted countries to restructure their economies.

5. The momentous reforms under way in Eastern Europe were to be welcomed, as their success would have positive long-term effects, although the balance of creation and diversion effects on third parties was difficult to predict. A reallocation of resources away from armaments and toward socially-productive uses was to be hoped for. In the long term, the broad development objectives of developing countries and of Eastern Europe were complementary. However, pending the fruition of such reforms specific measures to promote East-South trade were needed. Concern had been expressed at the consequences in developing countries as developed market-economy countries turned their attention and energies towards the economic potential of Eastern Europe. Political wisdom dictated that such fears should be addressed and allayed and that necessary measures should be taken to avert their realization. These developments would have implications for the work of UNCTAD and the secretariat looked forward to guidance from the Board on future directions.

6. Recent moves towards economic integration arrangements among developed market-economy countries, including EEC 1992 and the United States-Canada free trade agreement, had given rise to expectations and to anxieties. The economic weight and political importance of these groupings underscored both their potential and the legitimacy of concerns about their respective impacts on the rest of the world economy. The European Community's 1992 programme posed major challenges to weaker trading partners. The benefits for many developing and other countries, through improved access to markets for goods and capital, were not self-evident. In the period leading to 1992, the

READEX

Community had the opportunity to adopt policy stances which would assuage the concerns of developing countries regarding the effects of the single market. A successful outcome of the Uruguay Round could go a long way toward dispelling such worries. So would measures to ensure that the actual functioning of integration arrangements consistent with GATT disciplines created rather than diverted trade.

7. Broad trends in the trade policies of the major market-economy countries did not give cause for optimism. Managed trade had become entrenched and even the relatively strong growth of the past years had not generated the political will to turn the tide of protectionism. If the continued expansion of world output and trade was to be broadly shared, protectionist barriers must be dismantled. This was undoubtedly a key issue for the Uruguay Round. So far, negotiations had paid less attention to market access issues of interest to developing countries. Additional proposals on safeguards possibly undermining the unconditional MFN had surfaced. The initiative to introduce certain norms and concepts with respect to intellectual property rights and the rights of investors, and to link these to the overall balance of mutual rights and obligations in the area of trade, would imply a qualitative change in the present trading system; and would have a special impact on the national development objectives of developing countries importers of technology and foreign investment. Unequal technological capacities were reflected in unequal participation in international trade. If developing countries were to modernize their economies and enhance their participation in international trade, they would have to be supported in their efforts to gain better access to foreign technology and to develop their domestic technological capacities.

8. Negotiations on services needed to balance the interests of exporters of capital-intensive and labour-intensive services. The development of a modern service sector was becoming a key element in the infrastructure of the export sector of an economy. The mix of foreign and national ownership in this sector was a strategic decision. A balanced outcome of the Uruguay Round would need to take into account the developmental requirements of developing countries.

9. As to the work in the Uruguay Round on the strengthening of policy coherence in the areas of trade, money and finance, he recalled that the Director-General of the GATT, on the twenty-fifth anniversary of UNCTAD, had observed that UNCTAD had successfully promoted the trade-finance-development

link. So far the discussions on policy coherence in the context of the Uruguay Round had centered on the need for institutional and political linkages betweeen the GATT, the IMF and the World Bank. No doubt, before reaching conclusions on this highly important question, member States would wish to consider the roles of all competent intergovernmental mechanisms at their disposal, including the role of the United Nations under its Charter and, within it, the role of UNCTAD.

10. A successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round, would not be sufficient to resolve the basic problems confronting commodity-dependent developing countries. Trade liberalization could not in itself answer the need for an appropriate balance between supply and demand, at price levels that would offer remunerative returns for producers and adequate and secure supplies for consumers. It was estimated, for example, that over the coming year developing countries could lose as much as $5 billion in their earnings from coffee and cocoa exports. The long-term solution to commodity dependence was through economic diversification. Meanwhile, greater stability and predictability in commodity trade, must be sought through strengthened co-operation among producers, and between producers and consumers. The present level of such co-operation, fell short of requirements and this inadequacy lay at the heart of many current difficulties affecting individual commodities.

11. The fact that international commodity problems were only partly covered by the Uruguay Round was a reminder of the incompleteness of institutional arrangements for dealing with problems of international trade. Both the GATT and subsequently UNCTAD were responses to the failure of Governments to agree in the 1940s on the establishment of a comprehensive international trade organization as envisaged in the Havana Charter. When UNCTAD was set up, it had been mandated to study matters related to the establishment of such an organization and this issue had been discussed at sessions of the Conference until UNCTAD VI. It had now resurfaced, with somewhat different parameters, on the fringes of the multilateral trade negotiations.

12. It would indeed be welcome if the international community, through the United Nations, were to agree, in a new wave of commitment to multilateralism, to work towards an international trade organization which would be comprehensive in subject coverage, universal in membership, based on agreed objectives and norms of behaviour, responsive to the interests of all its

members, equitable in decision-making and organically linked to related institutional arrangements in the areas of money and finance. It was to be hoped that this ambitious aim would be seen not in relation to a specific negotiating process but in the wider perspective of the establishment of new institutional mechanisms in the area of trade.

Statement of the President of the Trade and Development Board on the release of Mr. Nelson Mandela

13. At the 767th meeting, the President, speaking on behalf of the Board, made a statement welcoming the release of Mr. Nelson Mandela from prison in South Africa. He observed that few events affecting the aspirations of freedom of the countries of the third world had had the dramatic impact of this release.

14. More than a reason for relief, it represented an important step towards a dawn of hope, not only in the hearts of millions of Africans but for the whole of the international community. In the context of other measures that had been constantly advocated, it could be the harbinger of favourable conditions for direct negotiations, based on the principle of self-determination, justice and peace for all South Africans.

15. The Board wished to welcome the release of Nelson Mandela and associate itself with the joy of the African people and to pay a tribute to Nelson Mandela, whose courage, firmness of purpose and spirit of sacrifice had, together with the struggle of all those dedicated to freedom and political equality in South Africa, contributed to the emergence of this gleam of hope.

16. Mr. Mandela's release also commended the wisdom of the Government of South Africa, which had taken the historic decision which the whole of the international community had been awaiting with justified impatience, but which must now provide the necessary leadership for transforming these hopes into reality. For the universal goals of social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom, towards which all countries had been striving, would remain distant in the face of the persistence of the system of apartheid, a system based on the negation of the dignity and fundamental rights of a whole people, because of their colour.

17. Thus, it should not be forgotten that, while Mr. Mandela had been released, the main problems relating to apartheid remained. The principle legal structures sustaining apartheid were still in place; many political detainees and prisoners were still in South African gaols; the state of

emergency, the security laws and the laws restricting the liberty and fundamental rights of black South Africans had yet to be repealed. All these constituted major obstacles on the path to the establishment of a united, non-racial and democratic State which would promote the well-being of all South Africans, and the peace and security of the whole world.

Tribute to the memory of Mrs. Carmen Sramek

18. At the 766th meeting, the Board observed a moment of silence in tribute to the memory of Mrs. Carmen Sramek, Secretary of the Trade and Development Board, who had served with the UNCTAD secretariat since its inception.

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Chapter I

GENERAL STATEMENTS

19. The spokesman for the Group of 77 (Nigeria) observed that in the past decade, the role of developing countries in the world economy had become increasingly marginalized and their participation in international trade and finance had substantially decreased.

20. The 1980s had been truly a lost decade for development and the Final Act of UNCTAD VII remained to a great extent a declaration of intent. Reviewing the background to the session, he said that the changes taking place in Eastern Europe and the new and emerging regional economic integration groupings in the developed market economies were a turning point in international economic co-operation.

21. The world of international trade was marked by changes in the trade of manufactures, particularly in high technology products, which had been unpredictable in the last decades. New areas of trade in the services sector had opened up. Certain aspects of the current economic situation, particularly the widening economic and technological gap and the growing tendency towards the formation of trading blocs were a source of concern. The process of globalization required a trade system that facilitated the exchange of goods and services, so that all the current trends towards regionalism should be channelled in such a way as to strengthen such exchanges. Trading blocs should contribute to the trade and development of the developing countries.

22. He expressed the Group of 77's understanding for the countries of Eastern Europe as they moved towards greater integration into the world economy. It was his Group's sincere hope that this process should open new opportunities for the exports of developing countries and for the world economy as a whole. However, the developing countries, while welcoming the reawakening of international co-operation demonstrated in the solidarity shown by developed countries to the countries of Eastern Europe, were concerned that this process could lead to the further marginalization of developing countries.

23. The Uruguay Round had been widely acknowledged as the most complex and ambitious attempt to restructure the multilateral trading system, based on the GATT. The developing countries were convinced that it represented an opportunity to secure a fair and equitable and a more open, truly multilateral trading system, as a means of promoting the economic growth of all participants and the development of less developed participants. They had sought and

obtained a political commitment for a balanced outcome of the results and for an operational reflection of their development needs and concerns in these results.

24. Developing countries had reiterated their intention to continue to participate constructively in the Uruguay Round. They had, however, noted with deep concern the current lack of balance in the negotiations. In particular, attention had repeatedly been drawn to the evident imbalances in: (i) the market access groups, especially tropical products and natural resource-based products; (ii) the apparent lack of political will to fully integrate textiles into GATT; (iii) the proposals to introduce selective safeguards as a permanent feature of the system; (iv) the attempt to enlarge the scope of anti-dumping and countervailing duty rules and the employment of such measures as selective safeguard action; (v) the approach towards agriculture, which had a special sensitivity for developing countries, and (vi) the proposals and initiatives advanced in various negotiating groups aimed at depriving developing countries of their rights under GATT and at imposing obligations in disregard of their special needs and conditions. Unless corrective action was taken immediately a balanced outcome would be rendered that much more difficult and the prospects of the Uruguay Round being successfully and meaningfully concluded would be seriously jeopardized.

25. Even whilst an intensification of the imbalance and asymmetry was being increasingly recognized, the Group of 77 had received indications that it was the intention of some industrialized countries to broaden the activities of the GATT under the umbrella of an International Trade Organization (ITO). The motivation for this proposal appeared to stem from the perceived difficulties in implementing the results of the negotiations on TRIPs, TRIMs and services and dictated by a desire to consolidate the gains in favour of the owners of intellectual property, owners of capital and providers of services desirous of both exporting capital and know-how. The Punta del Este declaration clearly stipulated that Ministers, at their final meeting, would take a decision on the international implementation of the outcome of the Uruguay Round results. That decision should not be prejudged.

26. The new initiative was clearly an effort to invoke the concept of the Havana Charter in form but not in substance. The Havana Charter contained several provisions now pursued by UNCTAD which were conspicuously absent in the new initiative. Several aspects of the restrictive features pursued by corporate entities had been ruled out of court by the industrialized countries

which were the demanders in the negotiations on TRIPs and TRIMs where efforts were being made to create further rights for intellectual property owners and for owners of capital, i.e. as investors. The entire thrust of the deliberations in these negotiating groups was to circumscribe the capacity of Governments to impose countervailing disciplines and obligations to fulfil the developmental requirements of their societies.

27. Members of the Group of 77 would carefully consider a proposal to establish an international trade organization provided it was in line with the arrangements envisaged in resolution 1995 (XIX) and subsequent Conference resolutions. Such an organization should be meaningful, comprehensive and responsive to the developmental aspirations of developing countries, and will require careful and detailed preparation under the bodies of the United Nations which had both the comprehensive mandate and the universal membership experience and expertise to deal with such initiatives.

28. The Group of 77 was currently actively preparing for the second United Nations Conference on LDCs. The strong support of the Group of 77 for the objectives of this Conference was a manifestation of its solidarity with the weaker members of the family. It would be participating actively in the preparatory process for the Conference.

29. He observed that the release of Mr. Nelson Mandela was a further step in the inevitable disintegration of the abhorrent system of apartheid and was a new sign of hope, not only for Africa but for all peoples and nations that believed in the rights and dignity of mankind. The Group of 77 would soon be celebrating the independence of Namibia and welcoming it as a sovereign independent nation into the fold of the Group of 77, which would wish UNCTAD to be fully associated with its Namibia's efforts to construct its economy and achieving its development aspirations.

30. The spokesman for Group B (France) said that the rapid changes which were restructuring international economic and political balances gave world opinion grounds to hope that there were new possibilities for exploring fresh approaches to development. Group B considered that these expectations confirmed the timeliness of the orientations in the Declaration on the twenty-fifth anniversary of UNCTAD regarding the renewal of approaches and the pursuit of innovative policies. It was in that perspective that Group B was approaching the current session.

31. Co-operation in the field of trade would be central to the Board's work. Despite the temptation of protectionism, which although it remained conspicuous was being contained with some success, the world had never traded so much. Yet it must be recognized that numbers of poor countries had benefited little from the expansion in trade. The Uruguay Round must yield concessions in all areas, according to the ability of each partner to contribute, so as to result in a multilateral trading system based on mutually accepted rules and disciplines profitable for the development of all.

32. Consideration should be pursued of the current evolution in Europe and its impact on development problems. The Governments of the countries of Group B recognized the importance of the fundamental political changes taking place in Europe and would suppport the important economic reforms. Yet this support would not weaken their resolve to give high priority to co-operation for the development of the third world.

33. Group B was actively engaged in consideration of the agenda for UNCTAD VIII in a constructive spirit and was ready to contribute to the Secretary-General's consultations on the subject. UNCTAD VIII would not be a success if it was limited to noting and encouraging processes already under way and to drawing up a list of aspirations rather than laying down guidelines reflecting current priorities. It therefore welcomed the emerging agreement that the agenda should be short, selective in the choice of topical issues, and synthetic in approach so as to establish the basis for the international co-operation that was essential for development. Such co-operation could not alone correct current disequilibria, internal or external. Each State must also continually adjust its efforts to extract the maximum possible advantage from its human and material resources, with a constant concern to manage the environment in a framework of sustained development.

34. The spokesman for Group D (Poland) said that his Group had listened with interest to the statement by the Secretary-General and he hoped that at least some elements of that statement might be further explored for the future benefit of the organization and would be reflected upon during the session. He hoped that some of the Group D countries would take up various of these elements in their individual national statements on specific items.

35. The representative of China said that, whereas the developed countries had maintained the momentum of growth for the seventh consecutive year, the economic development of the developing countries had been very uneven, and the gap between the developing and developed countries had widened further.

Developed countries had repeatedly committed themselves to rolling back protectionism and promoting structural adjustment in favour of developing countries. However, new restrictive trade measures directed against developing countries had been promulgated, non-tariff barriers had been further extended, and the preferential treatment provided for them had been diminishing. Protectionism was the major obstacle to the development of international trade, and its head-on victims were the numerous developing countries. Industrial structural adjustment in the developed countries, which would favour the expansion of the production and exports of the developing countries, had retrogressed.

36. Progress in the Uruguay Round was unbalanced with respect to issues of concern to the developed and to the developing countries. Little progress had been achieved in such areas of vital concern to the developing countries as agricultural products, textiles, tropical products and natural resources-based products. The principle of differential and more preferential treatment towards the developing countries has not received its due attention. Some developed countries were trying to amend the current rules so as to do away with the treatment as such towards the developing countries.

37. China hoped that the developed countries would seriously implement the Final Act of UNCTAD VII, honour their commitments regarding standstill and rollback, reduce and eventually dismantle their tariff and non-tariff barriers directed against the export products of developing countries, and eliminate all unreasonable and discriminatory restrictions on the exports of developing countries. China called upon all participating countries in the Uruguay Round to make joint efforts during the last stages of the negotiations to achieve positive results conducive to the improvement of the international trading system.

38. Technological innovation had become an important factor in determining whether a country would gain an advantageous position in the world economy. The developing countries had suffered great losses due to their shortage of capital and technology. The imbalance in the development of science and technology was a factor affecting the balance in world trade. The international community, especially the developed countries, should exert their efforts to create a favourable external environment for developing countries to obtain technologies under preferential conditions.

39. The strength of the economic integration of developing countries simply could not be compared with that of the developed countries. The effects of bilateral arrangements and regional economic integration on world trade and the export of the developing countries warranted the serious attention of the international community. The UNCTAD secretariat should continue to carry out an in-depth study of this matter. The developed countries must scrutinize the provisions governing regional integration and bilateral arrangements, so as to make sure that they would not impair the access to markets for the products of the developing countries.

40. China had taken note of the changes in the Eastern European countries but believed that these countries still had to maintain economic and trade relations with the developing countries, and that they still had obligations towards the latter's economic development. The development of East-West economic relations should not have any negative impact on economic co-operation between the developing countries and the West, or on the flow of financial and technological resources from the West to the developing countries.

41. UNCTAD VIII should look ahead at the trend of international trade and economic development for the 1990s in the light of present developments in the world economy. On this basis, it should consider as a matter of priority the major economic issues of wide international concern awaiting solution, particularly those that were faced by the developing countries.

42. China's achievements in the last decade of reform and opening to the outside world were universally acknowledged. While continuing this overall policy, China had adopted some measures to rectify the economic environment and to readjust the economic order. This had obtained remarkable results and the overall national economy was developing in the right direction. Reform and opening to the outside world were fundamental State policies of China and would remain unchanged for a long time. During the period of economic readjustment, China would continue to pursue the reform measures already instituted. It would continue to increase its trade and economic relations and its co-operation with various countries.

43. China was keenly convinced that economic relations between countries should also be based on the five principles of peaceful coexistence, equality and mutual benefit. In the contemporary world there was no single universally applicable model for development. Therefore each country had the right to

choose its own model in the light of its specific conditions and needs. China was opposed to any attempt to impose any specific economic system and model for development on other countries.

44. The representative of the German Democratic Republic said that a radical renewal of the political, social and economic system was under way in the German Democratic Republic, which was a basic prerequisite for a greater integration of its economic potential into the world economy. His Government was determined to replace the non-efficient centrally-planned economy by a free enterprise system. This was a process of tremendous complexity, which had to fit in with European integration efforts. The unification process under way in the two German States should lend fresh impetus to international economic relations.

45. The declared aim of the fundamental economic changes in the German Democratic Republic was to make that economy an integral part of the international division of labour. The German Democratic Republic was striving for a wide range of trade and co-operative relations with developed and developing States and would open the door to international finance and capital from East, West and South. The economic reform in the German Democratic Republic was to bring about an efficient market economy regulated by a democratic constitutional State through economic methods, legal and other framework conditions in the interest of growing social efficiency, ecological requirements and social justice. Measures being taken to that end included: the change of the Constitution of the German Democratic Republic providing for equal opportunities for both public and private property; the disincorporation of enterprises from combines; the removal of State subsidies for some prices; abolition of the State Bank's subordination to the Government; and regulations on the establishment of joint ventures to create the prerequisites for foreign companies to invest in the German Democratic Republic.

46. Measures to be taken in the near future included: a reform in prices payable by producers and consumers, based on world market prices; the introduction of the convertibility of the German Democratic Republic Mark; abolition of the State monopoly on foreign trade; and elaboration of legal regulations licensing foreign companies to set up business establishments in the German Democratic Republic. These changes would create the prerequisites for promoting co-operation with CMEA member countries, achieving compatibility

and co-operative links with the European Communities and other international organizations such as the IMF, GATT and OECD and for developing mutually advantageous economic relations with other countries.

47. The German Democratic Republic could base its efforts to switch its national economy to a market-economy pattern on: a viable material and technical basis; on its skilled labour; on a high degree of self-sufficiency in agricultural products; on extensive economic relations, in particular with the USSR; and on its position as potential turntable in East-West affairs. The central role it could play in North-South relations had yet to be recognized. UNCTAD could make a significant contribution to that end.

48. His Government did not share the concern that recent developments in Europe would diminish the attention the international community paid to problems facing the third world. The changes in the Eastern European countries were aimed at strengthening their national economies and improving the social situation by binding those States more tightly into the international division of labour. The economic recovery of the Eastern European countries would have a stabilizing influence on the world economy as a whole and thus on the economic development of developing countries. Calls for economic adjustment should not be understood as short-term objectives for only one group of States but as a contribution towards improving international economic relations in their entirety.

49. Given the present international environment, the new Government of the German Democratic Republic to be elected on 18 March would inevitably be faced with the task of adopting an approach to the solution of problems in the third world matching up to its new policy. Taking into account real-world constraints, that policy would be based on the assumption that the German Democratic Republic must share the responsibility for solving the tremendous global problems, and in particular those facing developing countries.

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Chapter I

GENERAL STATEMENTS (continued)

50. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics declared that present world market conditions were generally unfavourable for his country. The terms of trade had further deteriorated, and balance-of-payments problems had arisen. In 1989 the index of terms of trade was only 79 per cent of the level of 1985. The actual losses in foreign exchange earnings exceeded $US 30 billion. These external problems, combined with the profound domestic restructuring that had taken place, had produced serious imbalances in the Soviet economy and had made it necessary to develop a three-year programme of exceptional measures. This programme would include measures aimed at expanding exports, particularly of manufactures, basing trade with socialist countries on world prices and convertible currencies, making the rouble convertible, giving enterprises direct access to foreign markets, making full use of such trade instruments as tariffs, licensing and quotas, and a special régime for exports of consumer goods to avoid their massive outflow from domestic markets.

51. The implementation of these exceptional measures would not, however, interfere with efforts to fundamentally improve the foreign trade system of the USSR and to adapt it to the norms and rules prevailing in the world trading system. In that connection, his Government had on 7 March 1990 requested observer status with GATT, and he hoped that request would be supported by all countries. That move would not, of course, affect his country's attitude towards UNCTAD.

52. With regard to his country's monetary situation, it was essential to exercise maximum restraint in the use of foreign exchange and to ensure the timely repayment of loans extended to other countries. The Soviet Union remained a major net creditor. The USSR outstanding State credits amounted at the beginning of 1990 to over $US 140 billion (of which about $US 130 billion were accounted for by developing countries), with its external indebtedness twice as low as the above figure. However, Soviet indebtedness in convertible currencies had already reached a critical level in terms of the ratio of debt-servicing payments to export income in convertible currencies.

53. The Supreme Soviet had therefore placed a ceiling on convertible-currency indebtedness, but it must be emphasized the Soviet Union would fulfil its international obligations, including its obligations in the field of trade and economic co-operation with developing countries.

54. With regard to regional economic integration, it had become clear that the basis of Eastern European economic integration had to be changed to reflect the principles prevailing in world trade, particularly with regard to the use of convertible currencies and world market prices. However, the trade flows and ties developed over the last 40 years should not simply be abandoned, and the positive aspects of past experience should be retained. Soviet organizations, on the basis of the positive elements of past experience, were working on proposals designed to meet new realities and interests of all participating States providing, in particular, possibilities of creating free trade zones, multilateral investment projects, revitalizing the activities of joint banks, etc.

55. His country was ready to associate itself actively with the integration processes in Europe, particularly the creation of a single European economic space. In that connection, it attached great importance to the agreement on trade and economic co-operation it had signed with the European Communities in December 1989. The UNCTAD secretariat should pursue its studies of regional economic integration processes and their possible impact on international trade.

56. Finally, on the question as to whether the restructuring in Eastern Europe would draw resources away from the developing countries, the USSR believed that developments in East-West economic relations must not be at the expense of North-South relations. As agreed with Group B, priority should continue to be given to efforts to overcome underdevelopment in the third world, and it would continue to support initiatives and efforts by UNCTAD in this field.

Chapter II

OTHER MATTERS REQUIRING ACTION BY THE BOARD ARISING FROM OR RELATED TO REPORTS AND ACTIVITIES OF ITS SUBSIDIARY AND OTHER BODIES

(Agenda item 8)

A. Report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Restrictive Business Practices on its eighth session

57. In the absence of the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Restrictive Business Practices the Vice-Chairman of the Group, Mr. R. Guerra de Araujo (Brazil) introduced the report of the Group (TD/B/1236-TD/B/RBP/67).

58. He drew attention to General Assembly resolution 41/167, by which the General Assembly had decided "to convene, in 1990, under the auspices of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development Board, a United Nations Conference to Review all Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices; and also that the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Restrictive Business Practices, at its annual session in 1990, shall serve as the preparatory body for that Conference".

59. The spokesman of Group D (Poland) stated that countries of Group D supported the activities of UNCTAD in the field of restrictive business practices. Despite the differences still existing in views on specific questions in this field it must be recognized that UNCTAD was the only international organization dealing with this matter in a world-wide and comprehensive manner.

60. With the adoption of the agreed decisions and conclusions at the eighth session a substantive step had been taken towards the 1990 Review Conference. The deliberations of the Group had demonstrated the common understanding among all regional groups and China regarding the necessity to preserve the wording and the substance of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules. It was hoped that the Review Conference would make the necessary decisions to bring the Set into line with the current developments and requirements in the field of restrictive business practices. The forthcoming session of the Intergovernmental Group was called upon to make proposals for the Conference. Group D was convinced that this task could be met, provided that the political will and spirit of co-operation marking the last session continued to prevail.

Action by the Board

61. At the 768th meeting, the Board took note of the report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Restrictive Business Practices on its eighth session and of the comments thereon and endorsed the agreed decisions and conclusions annexed thereto.

B. Working party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget

1. Eighteenth session

62. The Chairman of the Working Party, Mr. K. Tiltsch (German Democratic Republic), introduced the report of that body on its eighteenth session (TD/B/1237-TD/B/WP/66).

63. The Working Party had reviewed the draft UNCTAD sections of the United Nations Medium-term Plan for 1992-1997 and approved documents UNCTAD/CAS/PSM/141-143 which reflected the outcome of its review for transmission to New York. It had adopted the agreed conclusions annexed to its report, as well as the provisional agenda for its nineteenth session. Further, it had agreed to dispense with the October 1990 session.

64. The spokesman for Group D (Poland) stated that his group considered the review of the draft UNCTAD sections of the United Nations Medium-term Plan for 1992-1997 to be of particular importance. The pragmatic and constructive approach of all Groups and China had made it possible to approve the text reflecting the outcome of the review for transmission to the appropriate authorities in New York. While his group welcomed the result, it wished to emphasize that it had essentially been a compromise. He drew attention to paragraph 2 of the agreed conclusions, which stressed the need to take into account the results of a number of forthcoming major events in the process of revision of the UNCTAD sections of the United Nations Medium-term Plan.

Action by the Board

65. At its 768th meeting, the Board took note of the report of the Working Party on its eighteenth session, and of the comments made thereon, and endorsed the agreed conclusions annexed thereto.

2. Nineteenth session

66. In the absence of the Chairman the Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur, Mr. L. Gatan (Philippines), presented the report of the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget on its nineteenth session, issued as a note prepared by the secretariat (TD/B/L.891), pending issuance of the final report. He drew attention to paragraphs 6 and 7 of the agreed conclusions

annexed to the note, concerning biennialization of the consideration of the items on technical co-operation activities and on programme evaluation. Future reports of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD on programme evaluation would be submitted solely to the Working Party, and reviewed together with the review of technical co-operation activities and subsequently made available to the Board together with the report of the Working Party. As a consequence, one annual session of the Working Party might suffice in some years, although there might be a need for two sessions in other years, depending on the scheduling of the consideration of the programme budget for the Medium-term Plan. It was noted by the Working Party that the UNCTAD secretariat would continue to produce an annual update of technical co-operation activities, in the form of a statistical update with a written overview, and that a more detailed document would be prepared in the year in which the Working Party actually reviewed technical co-operation activities.

67. The spokesman for Group D (Poland) stated that at its nineteenth session, the Working Party had agreed upon and adopted conclusions on UNCTAD technical assistance activities as well as the programme evaluation undertaken by the secretariat. Group D endorsed these provisions, especially the decision of the Working Party to carry out a biennial review of both the activities mentioned. It also supported the Working Party's recommendation whereby the Secretary-General's reports on programme evaluation would be submitted not only biennially but solely to the Working Party, for subsequent inclusion in the latter's report to the Board.

Action by the Board

68. At its 768th meeting the Board took note of the oral report on the outcome of the Working Party's nineteenth session, and of the comments made thereon, and endorsed the agreed conclusions adopted by the Working Party.

C. Manufactures

69. The Chairman of the Committee on Manufactures, Mr. M. Lebkowsk (Poland), introduced the report of that body on its twelfth session.

Action by the Board

70. At the 768th meeting the Board took note of the report of the Committee on Manufactures (TD/B/1238-TD/B/C.2/233) on its twelfth session and endorsed decision 14 (XII) annexed thereto.

D. Future meetings on iron ore

71. For its consideration of this item the Board had before it a note by the UNCTAD secretariat (TD/B/L.889) containing a recommendation by the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Iron Ore at its third session that UNCTAD's work on iron ore should be maintained and that regular intergovernmental meetings of experts should be convened, with the participation of industry advisers, to exchange views on the iron ore situation and to review and enhance iron ore statistics.

72. At its 768th meeting on 13 March 1990 the Board agreed to endorse the above recommendation. A draft decision was subsequently submitted by the President (TD/B/L.896).

Action by the Board

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DRAFT REPORT OF THE TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD ON THE SECOND PART OF ITS THIRTY-SIXTH SESSION

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
from 12 to .. March 1990

Rapporteur: Mr. A. AZAIEZ (Tunisia)

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Chapter III

ARRANGEMENTS AND PREPARATIONS FOR THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

(Agenda item 6)

1. At the 769th meeting, the President recalled that, in its decision 377 (XXXVI), the Board had requested the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, taking into account relevant views expressed, to undertake consultations as soon as possible on the agenda for the eighth session of the Conference. These consultations were proceeding and the Board would be informed of them at a later stage. The Board decision had also asked the President to undertake consultations on the location in Latin America and dates during 1991 of the Conference. In this connection, he drew attention to a report (TD/B/L.895) which he had prepared on his consultations.

2. The spokesman for the Group of 77 (Nigeria) stated that his Group continued to support the offer of Cuba to host UNCTAD VIII, in accordance with the wishes expressed by the Latin American Group, and hoped that a decision on the matter could be reached at the present session. As to dates for the Conference, his Group felt that this matter was intimately related to the venue of the Conference and therefore it was subject to consultations with the host country.

3. The spokesman for the Latin American Group (Bolivia) stated that the Latin American and Caribbean Group supported the offer of Cuba to host the Conference, and would wish the President to continue his consultations at the present session. His Group hoped that all countries would be able to support the Cuban offer, and to that effect made a call to all groups, and that a decision would be reached as soon as possible.

4. The spokesman for Group B (France) referred to the terms of the letter he had addressed to the President on this question (TD/B/L.895, Annex V), in particular that: (a) the country currently offering to act as host was not likely to assemble a consensus among the members of Group B; and (b) a consensus on the venue for UNCTAD VIII constituted, in the view of the members of Group B, a desirable element to ensure the success of the Conference. His Group also hoped that a decision on the venue could be reached at the present session of the Board. As to dates for UNCTAD VIII, Group B would prefer June 1991.

5. The spokesman for Group D (Poland) referred to the letter he had addressed to the President on this issue (TD/B/L.895, Annex IV), in which his Group had welcomed the offer of Cuba and taken note of the acceptance and support of the offer by the Latin American and Caribbean Group and the Group of 77 in Geneva. On this matter, his Group felt that it was most important to have a decision on which all groups could reach consensus. As to dates, the preliminary view of his Group was that June 1991 could be suitable.

6. The representative of China said that, bearing in mind the rotation of the Conference among different regions, and the relevant decision of the Board, UNCTAD VIII should be held in Latin America. Accordingly, China accepted and supported the offer of Cuba to host UNCTAD VIII and hoped that a consensus on this offer could be reached at the present session of the Board. On the question of dates, June 1991 could be acceptable to his country.

7. The representative of Cuba expressed appreciation for the efforts made by the President of the Board in his consultations on the question of venue for UNCTAD VIII. It was also appreciative of the support received for its offer from the Latin American Group, the Group of 77, Group D and China, and also from individual delegations of Group B. He regretted, however, that Group B as a whole had not been able to join the other groups in this respect, which would have marked a constructive step in preparations for the Conference.

8. This was not the first time that the decision on the venue of an UNCTAD Conference had been subordinated to pressure from a single country. For UNCTAD VI and UNCTAD VII, it had been said that a consensus decision would ensure the participation of the United States and safeguard the future of UNCTAD. The United States had indeed participated in those Conferences: yet far from progressing, negotiations had stagnated or even gone backward.

9. Consensus must reflect a genuine constructive spirit and the desire to negotiate and assist the developing countries. Consensus meant respect for all countries, large and small; not a situation in which a single country wished to impose its own policy on the international community.

10. In the first part of its present session, the Board had decided that UNCTAD VIII should be held in Latin America, and that decision had been endorsed by the General Assembly. Cuba's offer to host the Conference had been supported unanimously by the Latin American and Caribbean Group; it had been supported by the Group of 77 and later by China and Group D. Some individual countries of Group B had supported the offer, and a vast majority of them had indicated bilaterally that they had no difficulty with the offer.

11. The difficulty stemmed from the opposition of the United States, which was demanding that a decision be adopted by consensus - tantamount to the right of veto it exercised in the Security Council. It was that same country that was the largest debtor to the budget of the United Nations. His delegation agreed that UNCTAD should not be a forum for political confrontation; but it was time for all to fulfil their obligations. Participants should wonder why the United States assumed such a position. All were aware of recent developments in the Commission on Human Rights; now it seemed that UNCTAD was to be the forum for Cuba to be persecuted, isolated, and forced to change its policy.

12. For 30 years, Cuba had suffered military, economic and diplomatic pressures of various kinds. The United States refused to accept the Cuban revolution and the legitimate Government of the Cuban people, and had endeavoured to impose its own economic and political model on it. But Cuba was no threat to that country or to any other country; it was as zealous in its respect for the norms of international law, as it was in defence of its right to sovereignty and independence.

13. Cuba's crime was to have taken socialism as a model for its development; to have expropriated those who for years had pillaged its wealth; to have done away with racial discrimination and discrimination against women; and to have given to its people the right to work, to health and to education.

14. Cuba's crime was to have supported the legitimate Government of Angola when it had been invaded by South African troops and mercenaries supported by the United States. Its crime was to have defended at all costs the independence of Namibia, an independence which would soon become a reality and which was due, first to the resolute and heroic struggle of its own people, and also to the support of those who had opposed the racists supported by the United States and the policy of apartheid.

15. Cuba's foreign policy was well known and respected. It had hosted innumerable meetings of the United Nations system and also of the Non-aligned Movement, the Group of 77, as well as many different social, cultural and sports events. All delegations had always been treated with respect and hospitality irrespective of the country they came from, and their diplomatic privileges and immunities had been respected. This was well known to those who had attended meetings and sporting events in Cuba.

16. Cuba had hoped that good sense would prevail and that the United States would change its position and join the consensus. It was now time for all to decide upon the way ahead. Cuba was aware of its responsibilities vis-à-vis both UNCTAD and the international community. It would be examining how to proceed with the other Latin American countries and with the Group of 77, since as Cuba had received the support of those countries, it intended to act jointly with them in respect of this unjust and discriminatory situation.

17. Those who felt that their attitude was a means of isolating Cuba would sooner rather than later realize their mistake, and the damage they were causing to international relations. For the past century his country's flag had flown with one star, a star that would continue to shine and encourage all those throughout the world who were guided by the noble principles of freedom, equality and independence; to bring a blush of shame to those who were accomplices of discrimination, oppression, and blackmail; and to humiliate those who would use their might to impose their yoke on peoples.

18. The representative of Angola said that the Board was now facing the same situation as it had in respect of UNCTAD VII, which should have taken place in Latin America but had been held in Geneva. His delegation believed that all States Members of the United Nations had the right to host meetings of the United Nations system. It was in the interest of all to avoid setting a precedent in this respect. The universal character of all organizations of the United Nations system should be safeguarded; no one had the right to impose its policies on the international community. His delegation hoped that a consensus decision could be reached at the present session of the Board and invited Group B to demonstrate flexibility and associate itself with the desire of the majority.

19. The representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea said that his delegation fully supported Cuba's offer to host UNCTAD VIII. Cuba was a Member of the United Nations and of UNCTAD and it was its legitimate right to host the Conference. Furthermore, the Board had agreed that UNCTAD VIII should be in Latin America, and all groups but one had endorsed Cuba's offer in this respect. Reluctance to come to consensus on the Cuban offer could only give rise to suspicions of some unfounded political motivations. His delegation hoped that the question would be decided by consensus in favour of Havana during the current session.

20. The representative of the USSR said that his delegation attached particular importance to the preparations for UNCTAD VIII, on which the success of the Conference would depend. Current changes in the world were creating possibilities for the development of multilateral economic co-operation, thus enhancing the role of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations, including UNCTAD. The Conference would be an opportunity to give impetus to the promotion of sustainable and predictable economic development for all. Every State member of UNCTAD had the right to offer to host an UNCTAD conference, and Cuba disposed of all the necessary facilities to host such a Conference. His delegation supported the Cuban offer and trusted that it would encounter the understanding and support of all members of the Board.

21. The representative of Mexico said that his delegation subscribed to the endorsement of the Cuban offer for UNCTAD VIII by the Latin American Group and the Group of 77, and welcomed the fact that other groups and delegations had expressed their support for that position. What his delegation found contradictory and difficult to accept was that one Group was stating that it could not reach a consensus on the matter, and yet at the same time was saying that the decision should be adopted by consensus. No group should ask others to do something which it was not capable of doing itself; this would amount to a disguised attempt, once again, to exercise a veto by remote control. Eighteen years and four sessions of the Conference had gone by without one session being held in a Latin American or Caribbean country. The Cuban offer, made under established procedures, corresponded to the principles of universality of UNCTAD and to the legitimate right of Latin America to host the next Conference.

22. The representative of Viet Nam observed that the venue for the Conference followed a geographical rotation, and on that basis UNCTAD VIII was to be held in Latin America. The Latin American Group had endorsed the Cuban offer and the Group of 77, Group D, China and many individual countries of Group B had supported and accepted that offer. Furthermore the Cuban Government and people had made great efforts to ensure that the necessary facilities were available to ensure the success of the Conference. For these reasons his country reiterated its support for the Cuban offer. His delegation, perhaps others too, would not like to see a situation in which a single country dictated its will to the rest of the membership.

23. The representative of Peru said that his delegation expressed its complete support for the statement made by the spokesman of the Latin American Group and reiterated its firm support for the principle that all States Members had the right to host international conferences. He hoped that the President's consultations would lead to a satisfactory solution for all.

24. The representative of Nicaragua, also expressing support for the statements made by the spokesmen of the Latin American Group and the Group of 77 and by other delegations, observed that Cuba fulfilled all of the criteria for hosting UNCTAD VIII: it was a Member State from Latin America, the Conference should be in Latin America by virtue of rotation, and it was the only candidate from Latin America. As a Member State it had the right to host the Conference and enjoyed widespread support for its offer. It was important to take decisions by consensus but that was not an end in itself, there were also other decision-making procedures. His delegation could not accept a form of veto over majority views.

25. The representative of Colombia said her delegation believed it was for the regional group concerned to decide the venue of the Conference. In this instance, it was Latin America's turn to host the Conference and she would appeal to all Groups to accept the decision of the Latin American Group.

26. The representative of the Syrian Arab Republic said that it was the right of any State to host the Conference and that her delegation was convinced that Cuba was capable of hosting the Conference. The Cuban offer was acceptable to all Groups with the exception of a part of one Group. She felt that the Board should beware of espousing political positions which departed from the main lines of its approach. She finally called on all parties to join the consensus on the Cuban offer.

27. The representative of Honduras stated that his delegation fully supported the statement made by the spokesman of the Latin American Group.

28. The representative of Algeria said that the Cuban offer to host UNCTAD VIII ought to be accepted. In a constructive spirit of compromise, Cuba had waived its offer in favour of Geneva in respect of UNCTAD VII. To accept its offer for UNCTAD VIII would be to do justice to a country which was an active and constructive participant in the work of UNCTAD.

29. The representative of Ghana said that the main criteria in selecting the venue for an UNCTAD conference were whether the country concerned was a Member of the United Nations, and whether it had appropriate facilities to ensure the success of the Conference. It was on that basis that his delegation continued

to support the Cuban offer, which was the only offer before the Board. His delegation therefore appealed to all delegations to tackle the issue of the venue purely on its merits and principles in order to enable a consensus to be reached during the current Board session.

30. The representative of Brazil expressed his delegation's support for the statement of the spokesman of the Latin American Group, and for the Cuban offer.

31. The representative of the United States said that the view of his country had been adequately reflected in the statement made on behalf of Group B. His delegation was compelled to take the floor, however, in light of the statement made by the representative of Cuba which served simply to confirm its view that the Government of Cuba would use its role as host country to politicize the Conference and the organization. In addition, a matter of symbolism was involved. Over the past few years UNCTAD had earned some credibility: the quality of its work had improved; meetings were more constructive; and several important consensus agreements had been reached. A decision to hold UNCTAD VIII in Cuba would discredit the United Nations system and suggest that the United Nations was out of touch with modern realities. UNCTAD VIII should not be held in one of the few remaining countries which continued to support insurgency abroad, which had presided over the destruction of its economy, and which was under indictment by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. Furthermore, his delegation did not believe that UNCTAD should be asked to participate in a multi-million dollar political extravaganza in support of the Cuban Government at the expense of the Cuban people. Accordingly, and consistent with the position his delegation had taken prior to UNCTAD VI and UNCTAD VII, the United States would not attend UNCTAD VIII if it was held in Cuba and would not join a consensus to that effect.

32. The representative of Madagascar observed that it appeared that a consensus was emerging on the dates for the Conference, and that all members but one could agree upon the Cuban offer. His country supported that offer in line with the position expressed by the spokesman of the Group of 77 and stressed the need for a decision to be taken to that effect.

33. The representative of Argentina said that his delegation supported the position expressed by the spokesman for the Latin American Group and supported the Cuban offer. As to dates it considered that the timing of the Conference was closely linked to the venue and thus needed to be the subject of consultations with the host country.

34. The representative of Iraq said his delegation supported the Cuban offer, particularly since Cuba had offered to host UNCTAD VII. He hoped that a consensus could be reached on holding UNCTAD VIII in Cuba. It felt that rotation among the regions was a principle to be respected, thus UNCTAD VIII should be held in Latin America.

35. The representative of the Ukrainian SSR said his delegation supported the Cuban offer since Cuba was the only Latin American country that had offered to host the Conference.

36. The representative of Uruguay, supporting the remarks made by the spokesman for the Latin American Group, stated that it was the right of Latin America to host UNCTAD VIII in accordance with the decision taken in that respect by the Board, and given that the Latin American Group supported the Cuban offer.

37. The representative of Cuba noted that the United States delegation appeared not to change its instructions from one session to another, and that the allegation that Cuba would introduce political elements into the Conference had been made before in connection with both UNCTAD VI and UNCTAD VII. He would not comment directly on the United States statement, but would refer simply to all the various statements made in the Board by countries of many different political credos and economic and political systems. He thanked all those delegations which had spoken in support of the Cuban offer, and in support of the noble principles that should exist in the United Nations.

38. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran said that his Government supported Board decision 377 (XXXV) and General Assembly decision 44/219, and accordingly supported the offer of Cuba to host UNCTAD VIII in Havana.

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DRAFT REPORT OF THE TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD ON THE SECOND PART OF ITS THIRTY-SIXTH SESSION

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
from 12 to .. March 1990

Rapporteur: Mr. A. AZAIEZ (Tunisia)

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Chapter IV

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. Opening of the session

1. The second part of the thirty-sixth session of the Board was opened on 12 March 1990 by the President, Mr. Oscar de Rojas (Venezuela).

B. Bureau of the Board

2. At the 766th (opening) meeting the Board elected Mr. Akio IJUIN (Japan), Mr. Ilian BOZEV (Bulgaria) and Mr. T.V. TEODOROVICH (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) to replace respectively Mr. Olli Mennander (Finland), Mrs. Anna Doynova (Bulgaria) and Mr. Alexandre Kachanov (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), who were unable to attend the session.

3. The Bureau at the second part of the thirty-sixth session was thus as follows:

President:	Mr. Oscar de ROJAS	(Venezuela)
Vice-Presidents:	Mr. Morris ABRAM	(United States of America)
	Mr. Ilian BOZEV	(Bulgaria)
	Mr. Hicham HAMDAN	(Lebanon)
	Mr. Akio IJUIN	(Japan)
	Mr. Jean-David LEVITTE	(France)
	Mr. Michael Joseph LILLIS	(Ireland)
	Mr. Wisber LOEIS	(Indonesia)
	Mr. Thomas A. OGADA	(Kenya)
	Mr. T.V. TEODOROVICH	(Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)
	Mr. Gustavo Adolfo VARGAS	(Nicaragua)
Rapporteur:	Mr. Abderrazak AZAIEZ	(Tunisia)

Adoption of the Agenda and organization of work (Agenda item 1 (a))

4. At the 766th meeting, the Board adopted the provisional agenda (TD/B/1239 and Add.1) approved at the first part of the session, with the inclusion of four sub-items under item 8 as agreed in consultations between the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, regional groups and China (for the agenda as adopted see annex ... below).

5. The Board noted that there had been no request for the inclusion in the agenda of an item on UNCTAD's contribution to the preparations for the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade. It was understood that the mandate given to the Secretary-General of UNCTAD in that connection in Board decision 373 (XXXVI) remained valid.

6. The Board also decided to establish one sessional committee to consider and report on items 2; 3; 4 (a); 4 (b); and 5, all other items being considered in plenary. It approved the organization of work contained in TD/B/1239/Add.2.

7. At the same meeting, the Board took note of a list of resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly during its forty-fourth session related to the work of UNCTAD, some of which were of particular importance to UNCTAD (TD/B(XXXVI)/CRP.7).

Membership and attendance

8. The following States members of UNCTAD, members of the Board, were represented at the session: Afghanistan; Algeria; Angola; Argentina; Australia; Austria; Bahrain; Bangladesh; [Barbados]; Belgium; [Benin]; Bhutan; Bolivia; Brazil; Bulgaria; [Burkina Faso]; Burundi; Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic; Cameroon; Canada; [Central African Republic]; [Chad]; Chile; China; Colombia; Congo; Costa Rica; Côte d'Ivoire; Cuba; [Cyprus]; Czechoslovakia; Democratic People's Republic of Korea; Democratic Yemen; Denmark; [Dominican Republic]; Ecuador; Egypt; El Salvador; Ethiopia; Finland; France; [Gabon]; German Democratic Republic; Germany, Federal Republic of; Ghana; Greece; [Grenada]; Guatemala; [Guinea]; [Guyana]; [Haiti]; Honduras; Hungary; India; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Iraq; Ireland; Israel; Italy; Jamaica; Japan; Jordan; Kenya; Kuwait; Lebanon; [Liberia]; Libyan Arab Jamahiriya; [Liechtenstein]; Luxembourg; Madagascar; Malaysia; [Mali]; Malta; [Mauritania]; [Mauritius]; Mexico; Mongolia; Morocco; Myanmar; [Namibia]; Nepal; Netherlands; New Zealand; Nicaragua; Nigeria; Norway; Oman; Pakistan; Panama; [Papua New Guinea]; [Paraguay]; Peru; Philippines; Poland; Portugal; Qatar; Republic of Korea; Romania; Saudi Arabia; Senegal; [Sierra Leone]; Singapore; Somalia; Spain; Sri Lanka; Sudan; [Suriname]; Sweden; Switzerland; Syrian Arab Republic; Thailand; [Togo]; Trinidad and Tobago; Tunisia; Turkey; Uganda; Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic; Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; United Arab Emirates; United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; United Republic of Tanzania; United States of America; Uruguay; Venezuela; Viet Nam; Yemen; Yugoslavia; Zaire; Zambia; Zimbabwe.

9. The following other States members of UNCTAD, not members of the Board, were represented at the session: Cambodia; Holy See.

10. Palestine participated pursuant to General Assembly resolution 3237 (XXIX). The Pan Africanist Congress of Azania participated pursuant to General Assembly resolution 3280 (XXIX).

11. The Economic Commission for Europe; United Nations Development Programme were represented at the session. The International Trade Centre UNCTAD-GATT was also represented at the session.

12. The following specialized and related agencies were represented at the session: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; World Bank; International Monetary Fund. The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade was also represented at the session.

13. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented at the session: African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States; Commonwealth Secretariat; Council for Mutual Economic Assistance; European Economic Community; International Textiles and Clothing Bureau; League of Arab States; Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; Organization of African Unity; Permanent Secretariat of the General Treaty on Central American Economic Integration.

14. The following non-governmental organizations were represented at the session: General Category: Friends World Committee for Consultation (Quakers); International Chamber of Commerce; International Confederation of Free Trade Unions; International Foundation for Development Alternatives; Society for International Development; World Federation of Trade Unions; World Peace Council. Special Category: International Association of Islamic Banks; International Organization of Consumer Unions.

Treatment of new States members of UNCTAD for purposes of elections (Agenda item 9 (a))

15. At the 766th meeting, the Board noted that the membership of UNCTAD remained unchanged and stood at 168.

Announcement of any changes in the membership of the Board and election to membership of main Committees (Agenda item 9 (b))

16. Also at the 766th meeting the Board noted that the membership of the Board and its main Committees remained unchanged and stood as follows: Trade and Development Board - 131; Committee on Commodities - 107; Committee on Manufactures - 101; Committee on Invisibles and Financing related to Trade - 102; Committee on Shipping - 103; Committee on Transfer of Technology - 99; Committee on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries - 110.

Designation of intergovernmental bodies for the purposes of rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the Board (Agenda item 9 (c))

17. At the 766th meeting the Board took note that no additional applications for designation for the purposes of rule 76 had been received and that an up-dated list of IGOs in status with UNCTAD was contained in TD/B/INF.106/Rev.4.

18. The Board further noted that the Intergovernmental Bureau for Informatics (granted status at the sixth session of the Conference) had ceased to exist and had been deleted from the list of IGOs in status with UNCTAD. The Board also noted the change of name of the Intergovernmental Organization for Migration to the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Designation and classification of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the rules of procedure (Agenda item 9 (d))

19. Also at the 766th meeting, the Board took note that no new applications for designation for the purposes of rule 77 had been received and that an up-dated list of the 141 NGOs in status with UNCTAD (61 in the General Category and 80 in the Special Category) was contained in TD/B/INF.107/Rev.4.

Adoption of the report of the Board (Agenda item 11)

(to be completed)